



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

cent of the whole number employed, so that it is computed the loss to the state amounted to several million dollars. The ratio of deaths to those attacked was 31 per 10,000. Several charts are added comparing by curves the death rate in a large number of European cities during the epidemic period.

DAVIS R. DEWEY.

MINOR NOTICES.

A Preliminary report on the cost of production. Pig iron, steel ingots, steel rails, coal, coke, iron ore, and limestone. By the Commissioner of Labor. Washington. 1890. Pp. 61.

For some time it has been known that the Department of Labor, under the direction of Hon. Carroll D. Wright, was at work collecting data in regard to the cost of producing certain staple commercial products in this country and in Europe. Besides the industries referred to in the above title the investigation will include the cotton and wool, glass, linen, silk, and earthenware industries. The information when published will exhibit an analysis of materials used, taken from the books of the establishments; the efficiency of labor or the proportionate cost of labor to the whole as determined from pay-rolls; and finally the cost of living. The full report will be published in three or four volumes. It speaks well for the high standing of this Department in Europe "that a sufficient number of manufacturers have been found in different countries who were willing for the purposes of science to furnish the information desired."

This preliminary report embraces data from 412 establishments. In arriving at the cost of production "only those elements of cost which are universal, positive and absolutely essential" are included. For this reason, interest, insurance, depreciation of the value of plant and charge for freight of product to place of free delivery have been excluded. The elements of cost taken, include materials, labor, payments to officials and clerks, supplies and repairs, and taxes.

The value of this report when complete can hardly be overestimated; and to the careful investigator this preliminary report will throw light upon many disputed industrial questions involving statistical analysis.

D. R. D.

Some Experiments on behalf of the Unemployed. By Amos G. Warner, Ph.D. In *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. October, 1890.

Contains four statistical tables compiled or translated from German sources. The subjects are: 1. Statistics of the German laborers' colonies, with age, marital state and religion, and industrial standing of the inmates. 2. Length of stay and balance of earnings due at departure of all ex-colonists at certain colonies. 3. Length of stay and cause of departure of all leaving sixteen colonies, 1886-87. 4. Persons convicted of crimes or misdemeanors in fourteen colonies, 1886-87. The whole article is in line with Dr. Warner's previous statistical studies of the subject of pauperism.

Number 17 of the supplements of Conrad's *Jahrbücher für Nationalökonomie und Statistik*, pp. 60 (Jena, 1890), is devoted to a review of Life Insurance in Germany for 1889. An annual review of this nature has been published for some forty years, though only since 1884 in Conrad's *Jahrbücher*. The general plan and scope of the statistical tables has been uniform from the beginning; and the work has long been regarded as authoritative and valuable to the insurance profession. The tables are very complete, affording a picture of the development of life insurance since 1829.

It is, perhaps, not too late to direct attention to an important tabulation published in the *Spectator* (New York), Oct 10, 1889, prepared by Mr. Walter C. Wright, showing the death rate based on 9,029,408 yearly exposures for a maximum period of 64 years, as determined by seven different enumerations of mortality experience. The table exhibits in detail the number of lives exposed, the number of deaths, and the death rate of each year of assurance.

The thirty-ninth issue, 1890, of *Otto Hübner's Statistische Tabel*, now published by Dr. Fr. von Juraschek, continues the previous tabulations with suitable revisions to bring it down to date.

The Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labor, under date of Oct. 1, 1890, has issued a second circular letter, announcing the Publications, now in print, which the Bureau will be glad to distribute to applicants upon payment of postage. It is stated that the Bureau library contains 7500 books or pamphlets devoted to statistical subjects.

In the *Annual Report of the Chief Signal Officer of the Army, for the year 1890* (Washington, 1890, pp. 36), it is announced that the percentages of successful forecasts during the past fiscal year were 84.4 for weather, 78.7 for temperature, and 82.6 as a general average. This is an increase in accuracy of 1.7 per cent over 1889. During the year 1,112 storm signals were ordered, of which 1,040 were justified as to direction; 695 justified wholly as to velocity, and 59 partly as to velocity. Long time forecasts of weather and temperature were issued at the discretion of the forecast official with a successful percentage of 81.6 for 48 hours, and 80.5 for 72 hours. For 48 hours 1,833 predictions were made; and for 72 hours, 146. It appears that 98 per cent of all the important cold waves were predicted. A special paper on tornadoes is announced to appear in the full report, and the remarks of the chief signal officer in regard to securing a unit of comparison for tornado damage are of general statistical interest. The officer in charge of this investigation, Mr. Hazen, divided tornadoes into three classes: (1) violent storms causing destruction; (3) the most severe tornadoes, and (2) all other known violent storms. In classes 1 and 2 there were about 1,000 tornadoes each, for the total period covered, which caused the death of 1,071 people, or an average of one person to two storms, and a financial loss of about \$23,000,000. In class 3 there were 58 tornadoes, killing 755 people and destroying about \$12,000,000 of property.

"It is well settled that in the last eighteen years the annual death casualties from tornadoes average 102 annually. While this is a large number, yet it does not appear to be as great as the death casualty from lightning, since, during the present year from March to August, inclusive, there were 102 lives lost by lightning, and in compiling this record the list is incomplete, especially as regards the Southern States."